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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

ICELAND'S WEATHER SERVICE

The world is small and radio has made it smaller than ever. Thus it happens that methods of reporting and predicting weather in Iceland are not entirely unconnected with the practical affairs of our American "Main Streets."

At Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, two meteorologists and two radio operators draw weather maps and issue forecasts five times a day. One of the maps is local but the other four cover an extensive area of the North Atlantic and adjacent lands, being based on an international system of radio broadcasts but also partly on reports "picked up" from vessels at sea. The Reykjavik radio station frequently gets ship reports that fail to reach the European or American stations to which they are addressed. In Iceland itself there are about twenty weather stations that report their observatory by radio.

All of which is of interest to the world at large for two reasons; first, because Iceland, on account of its midway position in the Atlantic, is capable of playing an important part in the interchange of weather information for the benefit of ships on that ocean, and, second, because Iceland is directly on a probable future flying route between North America and Europe.

At present the weather forecasts issued at certain hours for the Iceland coasts are broadcast in English and German as well as in Icelandic.

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21st and Constitution Ave.
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